

**FOR RELEASE PRIOR TO July 23**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### Let the Sparks Fly

**Colorado Springs, CO** - Although slight in build, artist Sparky LeBold's swarthy, good looks and Ipana smile draw a stranger in closer like a magnet. It could be his shinny black full-head of hair pulled back in a neat Steven Seagal-style ponytail or his boyish charm, but like bad-boy Seagal's character you want to know more about this man and his mesmerizing art.

LeBold's oil paintings inspired by the beauty he experienced living in Europe and Colorado will be on display at Hunter-Wolff Gallery for a special two week exhibit starting July 23. The public is invited to meet this special guest artist Sparky LeBold and enjoy "*Let the Sparks Fly*" on Saturday, July 24 from 3-6 pm.

In Colorado Springs, Sparky LeBold is like an enigma although he aided the development and growth of a stalled art community in the mid-1990's. There's so much mystery behind this soft-spoken man and his dark shades. Those who created or collected art over the past twenty years in the Pikes Peak region likely know his name but do they know what drives the artist who paints with fervor? LeBold's work is full of emotion, passion and sensuality, reflecting his desire to communicate feelings and experience awareness for the beauty we sometimes overlook. His paintings and his subjects are eclectic, showing great diversity and allowing him to paint what he feels at a particular moment.

When he was a young man, Sparky and his family left Los Angeles for the pristine vistas and wide-open spaces of Colorado. Here he jump-started his career as a serious artist that savvy collectors knew to watch. It wasn't long before he had an enviable following and in 2002 he was inducted into the Who's Who of American Artists. While teaching at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, he founded Cottonwood Art Academy in Colorado Springs and has enjoyed a stellar career nationally and internationally since. He was even dubbed "National Artist of Portugal" and known as "the American artist, Picasso" in Portugal where he lived on and off for the past seven years. With dual-citizenship, he bounces back and forth and is excited to be back in Colorado Springs where he has family ties and on-going art projects. But like a free spirit, he is unable to say for how long.

Sparky LeBold has always drawn the attention of an audience and demand for his artwork. Even at age ten he captured the attention of the judges to win a national art contest for a painting of the skyline of New York City—painted without ever setting eyes on the city. He

has a unique ability to accurately convey a visual message in rich, luscious colors, warm light and deep shadows, while infusing it with a spark of life that touches the viewer for a long restful study. Like the man, his images hold one's attention and leave an imprint that rarely fades.

The public is invited to Hunter-Wolff Gallery's special one-man Opening Reception featuring Sparky LeBold "the American artist, Picasso" on Saturday, July 24 from 3-6 pm. Hunter-Wolff Gallery is located at 2510 W. Colorado Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO, and limited, hand-picked paintings by Sparky can be viewed at [www.hunterwolffgallery.com](http://www.hunterwolffgallery.com). Patrons can also contact the gallery at 719-520-9494 for a special invitation to an exclusive private reception with Sparky on Friday, July 23 (invitation required). Contact 719-520-9494 for details. The exhibit is open to the public until August 4.